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April 16, 1982

Dear Senator Helms:

Thank you for your letter of April 12 on behalf of  
concerning the fate of Raoul Wallenberg.

The Department's records show that Mr. Wallenberg was assigned to the Swedish mission in Budapest, Hungary during World War II and disappeared in January 1945 after Soviet troops arrived. The Soviet Union responded in February 1957 to repeated inquiries by the Swedish Government by stating that Mr. Wallenberg died in a Moscow prison on July 17, 1947. Although the Swedish Government officially raised the Wallenberg case on numerous subsequent occasions, citing several witnesses who claimed to have seen him alive during the 1950's, the Soviets have provided no additional information.

The U.S. Government has been interested in the Wallenberg case since it first came to light at the end of World War II. We have sought a full and adequate response about Mr. Wallenberg's fate from the Soviet Government. After receiving reports suggesting that Wallenberg might still be alive, we raised the matter with the Soviets on numerous occasions in 1979. That initiative resulted in a formal written reply from Soviet authorities in February 1980 reaffirming their claim that Mr. Wallenberg died in 1947. They also informed the Swedish Government of this finding and repeated their position that they would have no further information on this matter.

However, the Wallenberg case remains a matter of concern to us. We have attempted to gain information regarding his fate in other ways. In this regard, U.S. officials conducted extensive interviews with the five Soviet dissidents exchanged for two Soviet spies in April 1979. None of these ex-prisoners could confirm or lend credence to rumors that Wallenberg is alive. At the December 1980 session of the Madrid Review Meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), we supported the Swedish position urging renewed efforts to resolve the Wallenberg case. In addition, U.S. representatives attended hearings on Wallenberg held in Stockholm in January 1981.

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The Honorable  
Jesse Helms,  
United States Senate.

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Max Kampelman, co-chairman of the U.S. delegation to the CSCE, raised the Wallenberg case in a CSCE plenary session in Madrid in April 1981. He noted that the matter "will not go away," and that the Soviets' refusal "to appreciate the human factor which is symbolized by the Wallenberg case is stimulating even further interest." Ambassador Kampelman went on to state that "the tragic mystery of Raoul Wallenberg is unnecessarily becoming a divisive international issue."

More recently, President Reagan signed into law in October 1981 a bill conferring honorary U.S. citizenship upon Mr. Wallenberg. This legislation does not affect Mr. Wallenberg's citizenship, which remains Swedish, nor does it render to the United States any new legal rights to work on his behalf. However, we hope that our honoring Mr. Wallenberg in this fashion will make the Soviet authorities aware of the seriousness with which the American Government and people view Soviet conduct in this case. To further stress our dedication to resolve the mystery surrounding Wallenberg's fate, we raised his case with the Soviets through diplomatic channels immediately after he was made an honorary U.S. citizen.

Let me assure you we intend to continue our cooperation with the Swedish Government and other interested parties to seek information that will clarify the fate of Raoul Wallenberg.

Sincerely,

*AP*

Alvin Paul Drischler  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
for Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence returned.

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